

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2868**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Aghazarian and Bogh**

February 24, 2006

An act to amend Section 2633 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2868, as introduced, Aghazarian. Physical therapists.

Existing law, the Physical Therapy Practice Act, licenses and regulates the practice of physical therapy by the Physical Therapy Board of California in the Department of Consumer Affairs, and makes a violation of the act's provisions a crime. Existing law prohibits a physical therapist from using the prefix "Dr.", the word "doctor," or any suffix or affix indicating that the person is a doctor or physician and surgeon.

This bill would authorize a licensed physical therapist to use the term "doctor" and the abbreviation "Dr." preceding the licensee's name if certain requirements are met.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2633 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 2633. (a) A person holding a license as a physical therapist
- 4 issued by the board may use the title "physical therapist" or the
- 5 letters "P.T." or any other words, letters or figures ~~which~~ *that*
- 6 indicate that the person using same is a licensed physical

1 therapist. No other person shall be so designated or shall use the  
2 term licensed or registered physical therapist, licensed or  
3 registered physiotherapist, licensed or registered physical therapy  
4 technician, or the letters “L.P.T.,” “R.P.T.,” or “P.T.”. ~~The~~  
5 ~~license as a physical therapist shall not authorize the use of the~~  
6 ~~prefix “Dr.,” the word “doctor,” or any suffix or affix indicating~~  
7 ~~or implying that the licensed person is a doctor or a physician or~~  
8 ~~surgeon.~~

9 ~~Notwithstanding this section, a licentiate of this chapter may~~  
10 ~~use an initial or other suffix indicating possession of a specific~~  
11 ~~academic degree earned at, and issued by, an institution~~  
12 ~~accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges~~  
13 ~~or any accrediting agency recognized by the National~~  
14 ~~Commission on Accrediting or the United States Department of~~  
15 ~~Education which the board determines is equivalent, except that~~  
16 ~~the initials “M.D.” shall not be used unless the licentiate is~~  
17 ~~licensed as a physician and surgeon in this state.~~

18 *(b) A licensed physical therapist who has received the degree*  
19 *of Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Doctor of Philosophy*  
20 *(PhD), or Doctor of Education (EdD), or other equivalent degree*  
21 *from an accredited institution may do the following:*

22 *(1) In a written communication, use the initials DPT, PhD, or*  
23 *EdD, as applicable, following the licensee’s name.*

24 *(2) In a written communication, use the title “Doctor” or the*  
25 *abbreviation “Dr.” preceding the licensee’s name, if the*  
26 *licensee’s name is immediately followed by an unabbreviated*  
27 *specification of the applicable doctoral degree held by the*  
28 *licensee.*

29 *(3) In a spoken communication while engaged in the practice*  
30 *of physical therapy, use the title “doctor” preceding the person’s*  
31 *name, if the speaker specifies that he or she is a physical*  
32 *therapist.*